

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-63 are pending.

Response to the Notice

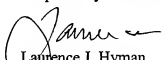
The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment states that the claims in the preliminary amendment filed with the application papers were not provided with status identifiers "and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be determined". As pointed out to the Examiner in a telephone discussion, claims submitted in a preliminary amendment are the original claims under examination with respect to an application, and do not require status identifiers any more than would the same claims if presented instead as part of a substitute specification. Nonetheless, to comply with the Notice, this paper resubmits the claims filed in the preliminary amendment. All of the claims have been provided with the status identifier "original", with the exception of claim 22, which has been amended herein to correct an error of dependency noted in the preparation of this response.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415 - 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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